TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 6, 2002 LB 1172

particular activity depending on whether they have the money to do so. Certainly, at that young age they've done nothing wrong to deserve less of an opportunity than others to participate in a particular activity, and I think that's why the people put into the constitution in the first place the provision that we should have a free education, and I think they meant every thing that the school does. I recognize some of the practical problems. And, Senator Kristensen, in your amendment you say that the school district can charge this fee and they may waive such fee on the basis of need. And I would ask you this Why can we not say, they shall waive this fee on the guestion. basis of need and either require them to go out and get some private funding to endow this particular purpose or require them to charge a slightly larger fee in order to cover those who cannot meet the requirement? Would you find it objectionable to say, they shall waive the fee? Then, obviously, you have the question of what is need, but we deal with that lots of times in the Department of Education and Social Services. We can...we can make a definition.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: I don't have an objection to that. I want to make sure, though, that I...I want to give those school districts the flexibility because there is sometimes the desire not to be singled out for a waiver. Sometimes that's handled on a case by case basis. They have a field trip. We send extra money and it's a total pot. Sometimes we send extra money because we know that they can't possibly do it as cheap as they say they're doing it, parents send the extra one. That way you don't have to have a distinguishable we're waiving for student X student Y a fee. That's the reason I put "may". I have no trouble with putting in "shall". I will leave it to their good judgment on how to carry that out. You...you're right. You could put standards in there that would say if you are eligible for free lunch you can be eligible for a waiver. So, right, I mean the concept is exactly that. If you can't afford it, you shouldn't stay home from the field trip to go through the Arch, a wonderful historical...(laughter) that's another...I'm sorry.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah, that's a...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: I couldn't resist that.